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Agenda item 71
Report of the International Court of Justice

Secretary-General's Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes through the International Court of Justice

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 16 of the Revised Terms of Reference, Guidelines and Rules of the Secretary-General's Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes through the International Court of Justice (A/59/372, annex), and is subsequent to the report submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session (A/66/295) under the agenda item entitled "Report of the International Court of Justice".

II. Mandate

2. The Trust Fund was established in 1989 under the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, following consultations with the President of the International Court of Justice. In accordance with the Revised Terms of Reference, financial assistance is to be provided to States for expenses incurred in connection with: (a) a dispute submitted to the Court by way of a special agreement, on the basis of Article 36, paragraph 1, of its Statute; (b) a dispute submitted to the Court by way of an application on the basis of Article 36, paragraphs 1 and 2, of its Statute, provided certain conditions are fulfilled (see A/59/372, annex, para. 6 (ii)); or (c) the execution of a judgment of the Court.

III. Beneficiaries

3. Subject to the requirements of paragraph 6 of the Revised Terms of Reference, an application for financial assistance from the Fund may be submitted by any State Member of the United Nations, any other State party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice or any State not party to the Statute of the Court having complied with Article 35, paragraph 2, of the Statute.

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4. During the period under review (1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012), the Fund did not receive any applications.

IV. Contributions

5. Voluntary contributions to the Fund may be made by States, intergovernmental organizations, national institutions and non-governmental organizations, and by natural and juridical persons.

6. During the period under review, Finland and Italy made the following contributions to the Fund:

State	*Amount (United States dollars)*	*Financial year*
Finland	13 409.65	2011
Italy	26 095.54	2011
Total	**39 505.19**	

7. As at 30 June 2012, the Fund balance, net of awards already paid, was $2,959,966.39.

V. Needs assessment

8. The Charter of the United Nations, in Article 1, paragraph 1, recognizes the settlement of international disputes "by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law" as one of the basic purposes of the United Nations and as an essential tool for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Court is the principal judicial organ of the Organization. As noted above, the Fund was created with a view to facilitating a decision by parties to a dispute to seek judicial settlement of their dispute through the Court. While I am grateful to the Member States that contributed to the Fund during the period under review, I also note that the number of contributions remains very low. Thus, I strongly urge all States and other relevant entities to give serious consideration to making contributions to the Fund, substantially and on a regular basis.

VI. How to contribute

9. Voluntary contributions to the Fund can be made by bank transfer or by cheque. Cheques should be to the order of the United Nations General Trust Fund, indicating "ICJ Trust Fund (TJA)" in the reference field, and sent to:

United Nations Headquarters
United Nations Treasury
New York, N.Y. 10017
United States of America
Attention: Room No. S-2007

For bank transfer details, please contact the United Nations Treasury (tel: + 1 212 963 5810; fax: + 1 917 367 0668).

10. For any additional information, please contact the Office of the Legal Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs (tel: + 1 212 963 3486; fax: + 1 212 963 6430).